

**Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2017**  
**Northstar Manufactured Housing Community**  
**Public Water Supply ID# NY0700788**  
**2782 South Broadway**  
**Wellsburg, NY 14894**

**INTRODUCTION:**

To comply with State regulations, Northstar MHP will be annually issuing a report describing the quality of your drinking water. The purpose of this report is to raise your understanding of drinking water and awareness of the need to protect our drinking water sources. This report provides an overview of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State standards.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your drinking water, please contact James Farmer, manager, at (585) 303-7683. You may also contact the Chemung County Health Department at (607) 737-2019. We want you to be informed about your drinking water.

**WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?**

In general, the sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activities. Contaminants that may be present in source water include: microbial contaminants; inorganic contaminants; pesticides and herbicides; organic chemical contaminants; and radioactive contaminants. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the State and the EPA prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The State Health Department's and the FDA's regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Our water sources are wells located in the park. For many years we blended water from our salty deep well with a shallower well to meet New York State standards. In 2014 the Health Department required us to drill a new well to provide backup capacity. The new well went on line May 29, 2015 and is now our primary source. The old wells are available for emergency backup.

The water is disinfected with sodium hypochlorite and filtered to remove iron prior to distribution to your home. We maintain the proper level of disinfection against microbial contaminants by maintaining chlorine residual within the acceptable range of 0.5 to 1.5 mg/L, with an average of 1.1 mg/L. Our water system serves 200 people through 75 service connections. During 2017, our wells supplied sufficient water to meet our needs.

## ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?

As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include: total coliform, turbidity, inorganic compounds, nitrate, nitrite, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, radioactivity, and synthetic organic compounds. The table presented below depicts which compounds were detected in your drinking water. The State allows us to test for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old.

It should be noted that all drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

### Contaminants Detected in 2017 (or most recent test)

Contaminants	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected	Unit of Measure	MCLG	Regulatory Limit MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium	N	06/2017	0.15	mg/L	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits
Chloride	N	06/2017	21	mg/L	N/A	250	Naturally occurs. No health effects; used to monitor saltiness
Copper 5 Samples in customer homes <b>Note 1</b>	N	07/2015	90 <sup>th</sup> % = 0.075 Range: 0.04 – 0.08	mg/L	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing and fixtures
Lead 5 Samples at customer homes <b>Note 1</b>	N	07/2015	90 <sup>th</sup> % = 8.8 Range: ND to 10	ug/L	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing and fixtures
Sodium	N	04/2017	19	mg/L	N/A	<b>Note 2</b>	Erosion of natural deposits
Total Haloacetic Acids	N	08/2017	0.75	ug/L	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Trihalomethanes	N	08/2017	3.6	ug/L	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination.

**Note 1:** 90<sup>th</sup> % (90<sup>th</sup> percentile) means the average of the highest 2 of the 5 samples tested. In the 2015 test round, none of the samples exceeded the Action Level for Copper or Lead. If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women, infants, and young children. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. Northstar is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

**Note 2:** Water containing more than 20 mg/l of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on severely restricted sodium diets. Water containing more than 270 mg/l of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on moderately restricted sodium diets.

### **Definitions used in the table of detected contaminants:**

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment, or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Milligrams per liter (mg/l): Corresponds to one part of liquid in one million parts of liquid (parts per million - ppm).

Micrograms per liter (ug/l): Corresponds to one part of liquid in one billion parts of liquid (parts per billion - ppb).

Not Detected (ND): The laboratory tested for the contaminant but did not find any.

### **WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?**

As you can see by the table, our system did not exceed any state standards. We learned through our testing that other contaminants have been detected; however, those contaminants were detected below the level allowed by the State.

### **IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?**

During 2017, our system was in compliance with applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements.

## **DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?**

Some people may be more vulnerable to disease causing microorganisms or pathogens in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice from their health care provider about their drinking water. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium, Giardia and other microbial pathogens are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

## **SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT**

The NYS DOH has completed a source water assessment for this system, based on available information. Possible and actual threats to this drinking water source were evaluated. The state source water assessment includes a susceptibility rating based on the risk posed by each potential source of contamination and how easily contaminants can move through the subsurface to the wells. The susceptibility rating is an estimate of the potential for contamination of the source water, it does not mean that the water delivered to consumers is, or will become contaminated. See section “Are there contaminants in our drinking water?” for a list of the contaminants that have been detected. The source water assessments provide resource managers with additional information for protecting source waters into the future. Water suppliers and county and state health departments will use this information to direct future source water protection activities. These may include water quality monitoring, resource management, planning, and education programs.

As mentioned before, our water is derived from drilled wells. The source water assessment has rated these wells as having a medium- high susceptibility to microbials, nitrates, industrial solvents, and other industrial contaminants. These ratings are due primarily to the close proximity of low intensity residential activities in the assessment area to the wells. In addition, the wells draw from an unconfined aquifer of unknown hydraulic conductivity and don't provide adequate protection from potential contamination. While the source water assessment rates our wells as being susceptible to microbials, please note that our water is disinfected to ensure that the finished water delivered into your home meets New York State's drinking water standards for microbial contamination.

## **HOW CAN I HELP SAVE WATER?**

Saving water lessens the strain on the water system. As you know, our wells are limited in the amount of water they can supply. You can help protect our system by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using, and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Conservation tips include:

- In winter, do not run a steady stream at your sink to keep water lines from freezing. Insulate your lines and check your heat tape each fall. Ask the office for help if you don't know what to do.
- Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank, watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is common to lose up to 100 gallons a day from one of these otherwise invisible toilet leaks. If you can hear it, a leaking toilet can easily waste 1000 gallons a day.

Sincerely yours,

James Farmer,  
Manager